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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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A NAMELESS GRAVE.

"A soldier of the Union mustered out."
Is the inscription on an unknown grave
At Newport News, beside the salt sea wave,
Nameless and dateless. Sentinel or scout,
Shot down in skirmish, or disastrous route
Of battle when the loud artillery drave
Its iron wedges through the ranks of brave
And doomed battalions storming the redoubt!
Thou unknown hero, sleeping by the sea
In thy forgotten grave! with secret shame
I feel my pulses beat, my forehead burn
When I remember thou hast given for me
All that thou hadst, thy life, thy very name,
And I can give thee nothing in return.

THE SALT OF THE EARTH.

A NEW YORK EPISODE.

BY EDITH BROWN NELSON.

Author of "Joined for Life," "Hidden From Sight," "Tales of the Period," "My Schoolmate's Story," Etc., Etc.

CHAPTER X.

The voice so long familiar has died out in everlasting silence; the form passing and repassing each day in my sight through the familiar rooms comes no more.

Naught remains of my Aunt Flavia but the memory of words, some trivial and kind, ly that she once spoke to me, and the low lounging chair and the soft cashmere shawl cast upon it as she left it last, inanimate objects identified with her gentle, ease-loving presence. I cannot realize yet she has departed, though the first shock of the bereavement is over and two weeks have elapsed since the pomp of her funeral obsequies were celebrated in the fashionable news of the day.

"A clear case of paralysis of the heart. Mrs. Courtenay would never call me in before because she knew my first order would be to forbid the use of the narcotic to which she was a slave, but she knew I would not, and that will not, ruin her chances as a rich amount of feeling might. Matilda Drummond is delighted with her, and prophesies great things, provided our *debutante* is docile.

"There is no fear of that, where her own interests are concerned," I said, with a laugh, when this opinion was expressed. But Matty is keener in her observations than I, always, and hinted that there might be a troublesome lover in the background, or a school girl attachment we should yet discover and be obliged to nip in the bud. Surely Celestia cannot have betrayed such nonsense already? I see no dangerous symptoms of attachment to any one or anything but her happy, vain little self as yet. She dresses and dances divinely, is the most beautiful girl that has come out for several seasons. I am sure she will create a furore, and determined she shall secure a good *parti*. Here she comes, singing; she is always singing some English song or the other.

May 1st.—Mr. Courtenay, who is the most complaisant soul in the world, and has no complaint to make against my expenditure as long as I retain that treasure, Monsieur Adolphe, the same cook we brought back with us from Paris, gave me *carte blanche* to-day for Celestia's trousseau, provided she accepts Horace Doolittle, and she will in time. "She must," says Matilda, who has taken to our spoilt beauty in a devoted fashion she never expressed for me, though we are such old friends and know all each other's secrets. Oh, what a strong will Matty has! I remember how she laughed me out of my caprice for poor Fritz. Of course I never really intended to throw up half a million for a sentiment, but it is odd how much I think about him yet, whenever I have the headache or the blues while Mr. Courtenay takes his after-dinner nap. It was harder at first than now, for a bride for the sake of appearances must seem a little less matter-of-fact than a wife, but now she is busy dressing, driving and visiting every day in the week, one does not see much of the husband. I told Celestia this to-day, when she broke out crying, with a ridiculous story about some country doctor she had met in England.

We have had a terrible time with her to-day. I hardly knew what to say or do, at last, when Matilda, to my relief, walked in.

There was Celestia crying herself blind and utterly ruining her bonnet strings, and I scolding and whispering both, when I ought to have given her sensible advice.

"You miserable water sprites," says Matty, understanding the situation with that *wonderfully* quick head of her's, in a moment.

"Flavia, I believe you won't be able to get rid of those red eyes for a week, and as for our dear little coquette, Hattie Harrison, will triumph in her downfall at the ball to-night."

"Indeed, she won't, jealous, frightful creature," cries my sister ceasing to sob and looking up with a change of anger and defiance in her doleful countenance. We both laughed, but Matilda had guessed the weak point so well I trusted her to improve upon it, and left the battle for her to fight, well pleased only to be a spectator. Little by little, coaxing and rousing her by turns, we learned all about a dreadfully poor young man of the name of Felix Featherstone. My silly little sister, among all the good opportunities she has had abroad with our good friend Mrs. Bullion, could find no suitor to please her but an obscure doctor, whose fortunate cure of Lady Somebody's toothache or fingerache had given him the *entree* to select circles, where he met my sister.

"If he had been in his proper sphere, taking care of all the rheumatic old women in his parish, he never would have met you and given us all this trouble," I said fretfully, as Celestia concluded with the melodious declaration that they were engaged, and she was willing to wait till he made a fortune, and that his talents would adorn any position, and that she was not half as good, etc., etc. I spoke my thoughts out, but Matilda collected hers before she gave an opinion, though I could see she was deeply vexed. Really it is the most provoking piece of nonsense on Celestia's part, when we had arranged everything so well for her settlement in life, and Mr. Doolittle so much in love he will settle half his fortune on her if we wish it. What does it matter if the poor man has not had much education and is a self-made man? I'm sure few girls would object to his ships in grammar, when he possesses diamonds of such magnificence as he did yesterday.

"If take his bracelet, because I like to show it off before the other girls and because I am so shamefully poor myself. I can't buy anything better than dollar jewelry," said Celestia, savagely, when Matilda, skilfully waiving the pretensions of Dr. Felix as something too trivial to think about, asked to see the splendid gift and lauded the generosity of the giver.

"Very true," replied Matilda in her smooth voice, "and though you don't like Horace yet, I know you would not like him to get married in a hurry to any other girl."

"He may, just as soon as he pleases," and the wilful girl smiled, knowing her power over the heart of our unfortunate manufacturer. However, she ran to feed her diamonds and kindled into such liveliness over their exhibition that I whispered to Matilda she would never get rid of the

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1875.

THE Cincinnati *Enquirer* intimates that the next National Democratic Convention will be held in St. Louis. A majority of the Executive Committee are said to be in favor of that point, and, judging from the frank admissions of the St. Louis press, that rowdies and cutthroats constitute the ruling element in the Democratic party of that city to-day, the selection would seem to be in every way natural and fit. The *Enquirer*, however, makes a similar acknowledgment concerning the dominance of the roughs and strikers in that party in Cincinnati, and hence it is not unlikely that an earnest contest between the two cities for the honor of the convention may ensue.

ACCORDING to the rules of the National Fork Packers' Association, the four months intervening between October and March constitute the regular packing season, although it is expected that so long as the weather remains favorable and hogs come forward in considerable numbers, some of the houses will continue to cut. Up to the first instant the returns from nine leading packing points in the West, including St. Louis, Cincinnati, Louisville and Milwaukee, show a total of 3,580,631 hogs, of which Chicago handled 1,683,739. The packing at the same points last season was 3,560,523 hogs, of which Chicago cut 1,520,024. The full returns are not, of course, yet made up.

A HUNDRED and fifty years ago Bishop BERKELEY said—and it is as true now as when written: "All projects for growing rich by sudden and extraordinary methods are ruinous to the public and, in the long run, to the winners themselves." Whatever one man may make in purely speculative enterprises, another is bound to lose, so that in the end nobody is a gainer. Here, for example, is the stock of those Nevada mines, over which the people of the Pacific slope went mad only a few weeks ago. On the 4th of January, stock in the Ophir mine was selling at $315 a share; California was selling at $780 a share, and Consolidated at $715 a share. Then came the bursting of the bubble, and last week the same stock sold at $87, $57 and $445 a share, respectively. The dupes are numbered by thousands, and in not a few instances absolute poverty has taken the place of wealth and comfort with people who sacrificed everything in the hope of gain. It is the old story about making haste to be rich, over again. Never sell what you have not got, and never buy what you cannot pay for.

THE passage of the Civil Rights bill, at the very close of the session, emasculated as it was by the elimination of section one of it, was a very tardy recognition of duty by the Republicans in Congress. The bill should have been passed early in the session; it should, in fact, have been passed last session; yet it is probable it would not have passed at all, in any shape, had not recent events in the South rendered its passage imperative. The Republican members of Congress were fairly shamed into doing something for the protection of the colored citizens of the nation, by the determination shown by the Southern Democrats to ignore altogether the claims of this class of citizenship. If the Democracy does not like the bill, it has no one to blame for its passage but itself. The massacres in Louisiana and Mississippi, the violent and persecuting spirit of the Southern Democrats generally, and the cordial support given them in all their outrageous conduct by the Northern Democracy, have together compelled the enactment of this measure. The reluctance with which it has finally been made a law is evidence that it would not have been enacted had there not been an irresistible necessity for it. The moral effect of such a measure would have been greatly enhanced, in our judgment, if it had been adopted more upon its intrinsic merits and less from the extrinsic necessity which finally prompted it; but its passage under *any* circumstances, is a palpable gain for the right.

THE Force bill, as it passed the House, is one of those measures demanded by the President in his annual messages to Congress, as needed to enable him to enforce order, obedience to the law, and fair elections at the South. The President, as head of the nation, is held responsible for the preservation of the public peace, and the protection of American citizens in their legal rights; but the laws do not clothe him with sufficient power to maintain his authority effectively. In the extreme Southern States he has a turbulent population to deal with, whose hopes have been raised high by the accidental successes, last year, of the Northern Democracy; and their expectations having thus been aroused of carrying the next Presidential election, if left unrestricted and unrestrained by the strong arm of the National Government, their purpose has been clearly evinced to carry the Southern States by intimidation and force. In such an emergency, the President must either stand by and see them succeed in this fraudulent way, without power to prevent it, or Congress must clothe him with the requisite legal authority to enforce fair play and obedience to the laws. This is the simple purpose of the Force bill. It confers upon the President the power to enforce the constitutional amendments, in their letter and spirit, and so to save the Southern States from the dominion of a reign of terror, second only to the Inquisition in its fierceness and vindictiveness. It is plain that the nation owes to the colored people of the South that protection in their rights which the citizens of all other sections enjoy; and the Force bill is to accomplish this and nothing more.

WE CANNOT, as we look back upon the Congress which has just drawn to a close, commend it either for its moral courage or its vigor. It seemed, during all last session, and during a part of the present, to be smitten with judicial blindness and indecision. As the session drew to a close, and events crowded upon its consideration, measures which it ignored when it had the leisure to examine them, it shook off its supineness and addressed itself to its bounden duties; but there is not one of the important measures which were crowded into the last two weeks of the session that should not have been considered much earlier. The Little Tariff bill, the Revenue bill, the Civil Rights bill and the Force bill should all have been brought forward sooner and disposed of earlier; but the cowardice which paralyzed some of the leading Republican members of both Houses seemed to infect the whole mass, and leave it powerless. Such poor creatures as FOSTER, of Ohio, PHELPS, of New Jersey, WILLARD, of Michigan, BROWNLOW, of Tennessee, and SENER, of Virginia, were allowed to infect, for a season, the great body of Republicans in both Houses, and it was only when the hour of actual peril came, that the majority mustered up the pluck necessary to carry through the measures to which their party was in honor bound.

This is not the first time that the party has been placed in peril by chicken-hearted demagogues calling themselves statesmen. The backsliding of TRUMBULL and DOOLITTLE, and the other Republican Senators who refused to vote for the impeachment of ANDREW JOHNSON, came very near stranding the party, at that time; but, thank heaven! the party and its principles were greater than its representatives, and it not only threw off the faithless members, but achieved a victory that set JOHNSON at defiance, and wiped out of political existence the dirty traitors who stood by him.

And what the party did then it can do again. A long series of successes rendered the party less careful than usual in 1872, in the selection of candidates for Congress, and the result was that a few cowardscrept in, here and there, whose Republicanism was not deep enough to enable them to carry out their principles, when called upon. Their indecision, and trifling, and want of political principle materially to bring about our defeat in 1874; and now that we are about to get rid of them, altogether, the party will be able to resume its wonted position of fidelity to its principles, and be all the better able when it regains power, to carry them out effectively and fearlessly.

For experience has shown that, although occasionally cursed with weak-kneed, chicken-hearted and terror-stricken adherents, the great body of the party is sound, courageous and trustworthy. Experience has also shown that it is the only party capable of governing the country wisely and safely. The vagaries of the Democrats, wherever they have lately come upper-most, has disgusted the people with *them*. They have no policy, no principle, no purpose, and are held together, as CALHOUN once said, solely by the cohesive power of public plunder. The Republican party is the only party with a policy to enforce; and it must show its ability, in its future course, to seek out men for public places who are not ashamed of their principles nor afraid to stand by them.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

Mr. BUCKALEW, who has abandoned Columbia county, and taken up his residence in Luzerne county, is quietly engaged in an effort to defeat the proposed amendments to the new Constitution of this State, and is striving to combine the individual opposition of the scattered members of the Constitutional Convention. What steps he or they propose to take has not yet been made manifest; but that he is busily engaged in inciting the ex-members of the Convention to do something in the matter is certain, according to the information we have received.

The only radical change proposed in the Constitution by the Commission appointed for that purpose, and consisting of four Republicans and three Democrats, is that which proposes to abolish all those provisions in that instrument which allow of limited or cumulative voting. This is Mr. BUCKALEW'S hobby, and he rides it as affectionately as DON QUIXOTE did his rawboned and ill-favored Rosinante. To lay hands on this special work of his is to assail him in his tenderest part, and hence his hostility to the work of the Commission.

That the Constitution *needed* the revision it has received from this Commission, was first made manifest by Mr. BUCKALEW himself. When the Constitutional Convention re-assembled at Harrisburg, a short time before the Constitution was adopted, he had, as we are credibly informed, a long string of changes and alterations prepared, which he intended to have incorporated in the Constitution before it was adopted. How many there were of them, or what they consisted of, we are unable to say; but no one knew better than Mr. BUCKALEW that the instrument had been badly put together, had been miserably revised and compared, and contained numerous contradictory and inconsistent provisions, all of which were the result of carelessness in making it ready for the final action of the Convention. He therefore proposed to cure these defects at the start; and nothing but the consciousness that such a course would expose the instrument thus corrected to merciless ridicule and its authors to contempt, prevented him from carrying his purpose into effect.

The excision of the sections relative to cumulative or limited voting was not, of course, included in *his* projects of change; and if the Commission had left them alone, he would not have been stirred into opposition. His objection is not to alteration of the Constitution, *per se*, but to the particular elimination proposed by the Commission. He wants to save his pet measure; that is all.

That constitutions should need amendment, almost as soon as adopted, need not be matter of surprise. Indeed, the very fact that they are proposed so soon is evidence that the machinery, when put into operation, does not work smoothly. The first experiments with any new machine always demonstrate what is wanting to its perfection. The defects of such a machine are certain to be developed then, if at all.

The Constitution of the United States was adopted in 1789; yet in 1791, within a year or two after its adoption, some ten or twelve amendments were proposed to it, and incorporated in it. They were found absolutely essential to its effectiveness, from the very first year's experience of it, and no after attempt was made to amend it until 1861.

It is, therefore, no reflection upon the framers of the new Constitution that their work should be found, in some few respects, defective. The Commission, with the one exception noted, confined their suggestions to a few matters of detail, the propriety of which no one has yet questioned. They have but done, in the main, what Mr. BUCKALEW himself would have done, if he had been permitted.

As to the matter of cumulative or limited voting, there are but few, we fancy, beyond the small circle of *doctrinaries* of which Mr. BUCKALEW is chief, who will not heartily concur in the proposition to sweep it away. The amendments proposed by the Commission, striking out all reference to it in the Constitution, will have to be, as Mr. BUCKALEW knows, submitted to a separate vote of the people; and we are perfectly content to abide by the popular verdict upon them. Why should not he be so, likewise? If the people want to retain his humbug, they can easily say so; and if they do not, why should he wish to keep provisions in their fundamental law against their will? We believe in popular sovereignty, in all such matters, and are not afraid to consult the popular will upon a subject that concerns all who believe in the good old doctrine that the majority have a right to rule.

PERSONAL.

General Frank Blair's health is not improving. His friends say that, unless a change for the better occurs very soon, they are prepared for the worst.

"Wild Bill," the well known interpreter of Indian tragedy, formerly attached to the troupe of "Buffalo Bill," has been appointed United States Marshal at Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory.

Mr. Algernon Sartoris has gone to Green Bay, Wisconsin, where he has a farm. He lived there and tilled the soil for quite a while before his wealthy father and Nellie took pity on his 'ard condition.

Mrs. Grant's receptions, as well as those given by the President, have terminated quite abruptly this season, owing, it is said, "to the delicate state of Mrs. Sartoris' health." This is suggestive.

A colored patient, the other day, to his physician: "Doctor, I'm jes' dreadful; I've had the fleuring in my hip, and a sore on the roof of my tongue; I've put on a mustard atercation and goggled my mouf, but it done me no good."

Ex-Governor Seymour's accident a few days ago, referred to at the time in this column, seems happily to have been less severe than the reports made it. He was in Albany a day or two after it occurred, and alluded to it pleasantly in this way: "Oh, it wasn't as bad as the newspapers made it out. Perhaps, in justice to the press, I ought to have goggles." Don't know about that. He looks through Democratic spectacles now.

This is from the Charlotte (N. C.) *Observer:* "In a sort of 'unmentionable' suit, tried day before yesterday, Colonel H. C. Jones took the rather novel position that he had a right to introduce a negro man as *documentary evidence* in his own defense, viz: Ask him no questions, but merely present him to the jury, and let them read what the Almighty had written in indelible ink on his face. The judge sustained Colonel Jones' position, and the negro was *read* to the jury."

General Sherman has at length consented to publish the book prepared by him giving in detail the history of his campaigns, and some incidents connected with the prosecution and end of the war never yet given to the public. The work was originally prepared with the intention of leaving it to his children such disposition as he might wish after his death, but the publication of a portion of it treating of the organization of the army, and the knowledge thereby made public that such a book was in existence, has produced so great anxiety for its publication that General Sherman has finally consented. It will prove a valuable acquisition to the history of this country.

Age and persecution are gradually souring the mild and gentle temper of Brigham Young, of Salt Lake City. Instead of mellowing it, they are ruining it. According to the Salt Lake *Tribune*, a disagreeable scene occurred a day or two ago. One of the Prophet's many sons, President of the Order of Enoch, and a vagabond of spendthrift reputation, ran short of money, and called on the old gentleman to give him some, Brigham referred young hopeful to George A. Smith, trustee-in-trust of the church. Smith gave the younger Young a bit of his mind, called him a spendthrift, a scoundrer, a vagabond, and wound up by telling him that the treasury of Jesus Christ would never furnish him a penny. According to the *Tribune*, Brigham threw his hat in Smith's face. "Take that, d—n you," he said (the first thing he has come to a pretty pass when my sons cannot get the money I earned." The hat was restored to him, and the old gentleman's ire was soothed with a check given to his favorite one. The same paper charges Brigham with confining his aged wife, his only lawful one, in an old school house behind the seraglio, and slowly starving her to death.

Important Legal Decision.

In the United States District Court, at Philadelphia, on Saturday, Judge Cadwalader, in the case of the United States vs. Samuel M. Zulich, which was sent up on the defendant's official bond of $100,000, the Government alleging a deficit of nearly $222,000 in his accounts, charged the jury, telling them that as a matter of law they should render a verdict for the United States for the full amount of the bond. The jury returned a sealed verdict for the Government for $11,238 75.

The judge said the verdict would not stand, that the jury had wasted the public time, and had dealt with this case in a most unbusinesslike manner; that he had assumed the responsibility of instructing them as a matter of law what the verdict should have been, and it was their duty to have found according to the charge, and then, if he had committed an error, the Supreme Court could have corrected it.

FROM COLUMBUS, O.

The Rivalry Between Uncle and Nephew—Personal Peculiarities of Both—The Case of Wood County—A Member Mak a Demand for a Show of Hands—The Compulsory Education Bill—The Penitentiary Mismanagement.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

COLUMBUS, February 27, 1875.

THE RIVAL CANDIDATES.

There is no use denying it. The rivalry between the old Governor and his nephew, the Senator, continues to increase. Allen looks upon himself as the man of destiny and upon Thurman as the one stepping in between him and destiny. He has lived through one generation and for twenty years was intombed in a sort of state of suspended animation. And now that he has risen, there is nothing beyond his ambition. The era of the restoration has come about and he is its prophet. On the other side, Thurman was always of the people and with the people, and he feels that his claims to the Presidency have neither been outlawed by lapse of time or forfeited by a lack of work for the party which he represents. Thurman is the more practical man, Allen the more popular. Both really represent the Bourbon element, though in this case, paradoxical as it may seem, it is more artfully concealed than in Thurman's. Strange thing that, the old man seventy if he's a day, regarded as the representative of the young Democracy, while the younger is the exponent of the old Jacksonian ante bellum school! Thurman's home is here at Columbus, though he doesn't spend much time at it. He generally comes out to spend a few weeks in the summer looking to his farm and stock, though stopping at the hotel. A good talker, he seldom launches out unless drawn into conversation. A wily politician, he never takes a part in a campaign unless personally interested. A sociable companion, he has few, very few friends that can be called intimate. He is seldom seen on the streets and divides his time pretty evenly between four-story-and-basement. Allen, on the other hand, is always accessible and always entertaining somebody. He talks well, too, and loves to talk. Is something wonderful, really, what a source of universal knowledge the old man is. He talks intelligently on almost every subject. He will give you a learned treatise on either Chaldaic history or the turf records. He discourses with equal interest on Greek history or Roman mythology or the last transit of Venus, or the most approved sites for grape growing. His appetite for knowledge seems to be omniverous, and his memory of facts never at fault. He doesn't like to be interrupted, but if you'll only listen he will discourse you by the hour and never tire. In this and many respects he is a remarkable man. Twice the Presidency has been almost within his grasp, and both times he has been disappointed. Now, however, he believes, and his friends with him, that his life's ambition is to be gratified.

THE WOOD COUNTY QUESTION,

or the county seat question, rather, up in Wood county, has been quite consuming one with the House for two or three days now. There was a lobby, or two lobbies rather, here all last winter, one to get a bill passed to allow them to change their county seat, the other to prevent its passage. Wood county has had a vast amount of trouble over the question of her county seat. Many years ago, according to her profane historians, Wood county was little else but a fishing ground in the summer and a skating rink in the winter. Her broad prairies, level as a barn floor, were covered with water nearly the year round. It was a territory with insufficient water privileges, while of at one side, perched up, as it were, on stilts, stood the town of Perrysburg, containing a branch land office, a court house, two or three stores, and a few hundred people. By-and-bye they commenced to drain these lands, and the spirit of improvement got a foot hold there. Two or three other little towns sprung up over the county, though by this time Perrysburg got a railroad, and was still able to keep in advance. Then the trouble came. Bowling Green had been located about in the geographical center of the county, and by virtue of that began to aspire to the county seat. Bowling Green had prophetic souls within her gates that fondly hoped to see her the seat of empire. So they sat about it, and got a law passed to enable the people of the county to vote where the county seat should be located, whether at Bowling Green or Perrysburg. Then when they came to the vote these old chronicles say there was a deal of sharp practice resorted to. Tickets were made with the words "For removal" in very small type and printed in an obscure part of the ballot, and thereby many unsuspecting citizens were deceived into voting for change of location that otherwise would not. Other curious devices, it is said, were resorted to, and when they come to count out the vote it was found that Bowling Green had made her point. This was some eight or ten years ago, and ever since then the people of Perrysburg have been trying to get an appeal. Four years ago last winter the Legislature and asked the passage of such a law in vain. Three years ago they again tried with no better success. A year ago they were here still again, and the bill was defeated, but was introduced once more and passed the Senate; and finally it came up in the House this week and was passed by fifty-three votes, just enough to carry it. Its passage even then I imagine was more because the members had got tired of hearing of it than because of the efforts of the lobby. It was one of those cases to get rid of the lobbies on both sides, who were like the poor, in always being with us. At any rate they passed it, and at once the cry was raised by one of the opposition, Mr. Gordon, of Hamilton, that there was

BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION IN IT.

Now Gordon is the last person that would be expected to make such a charge. A bold, reckless fellow, talented and brilliant, the leader of the b'hoy element in the Legislature, popular with everybody, the choice spirit in every convivial gathering, and the one of all the House who would be first to invite the approval of the tempter lobbyist, he is the very last who would be expected to make such an indictment against his fellow members. It was an unheard of occurrence in the Ohio Legislature for one member to get up and charge his fellow members with having received bribes and demand the appointment of a committee to investigate their conduct. Such things have occasionly been charged through the newspapers, and committees have been appointed to examine into the charges or facts; but for a member to make such a charge is, I believe, without precedent. And in this case it arose from disappointment. Gordon had a favorite bill in the hands of the Judiciary Committee, of which Judge Hoag is the Chairman, a bill to employ some one in Cincinnati to codify the statutes. Judge Hoag was also a member who had the Wood county bill in charge. So when he refused to recommend Gordon's bill, Gordon announced his intention to nonahawk his pet measure, and, failing in this, he seeks his revenge in the shape of an investigation. He will have as co-laborers in his work, Holloway, of Hamiltonian, and Pickens, of Clarke, who voted with him, and Grosvenor, of Athens, and Merlin, of Montgomery, who were on the other side. The committee is altogether a good one, but it is safe to say, even before they commence, that they will find out nothing. The gentlemen of the lobby who resort to the use of money are not easily caught. It is only once in a great while, in such cases as the Credit Mobilier or the Pacific Mail subsidy, that their operations are brought to light, and still more seldom that the honorable members themselves are implicated. Money was probably used some way to influence both the passage and defeat of the Wood county bill, but, I dare say, it will be extremely difficult to ascertain. If suspicion attaches to any one, it is impossible to find out now who is that one, and by the time the committee gets settled down to its work every man who is brought before them will have got his story fixed up and dovetailed so as to match all the rest. And the upshot of it all will be to bring the investigation of it into extremely bad odor with his fellow members. For a simply honest man without aspirations, Mr. Gordon has perhaps done a good thing, but for one to whom political success is the object of having them gratified, it is a political *faux pas* that will not be soon forgotten or overlooked.

THE COMPULSORY EDUCATION BILL

of Mr. Richards, the member from Jefferson county, went through the lower House the other day, to the unfeigned surprise of everybody. Its provisions have already been published and its propriety discussed. Hardly any one expected that it would pass, though ever so strong an effort was made in its behalf. Its author, Mr. Richards, one of the most hard-working, careful members of the House, is entitled to credit for the persistent way he has worked it up, and has a right to feel proud of the success of his bantling. Kindred bills have died of conglomerated action is that of compulsory service, and this brings me to speak of

THE PENITENTIARY MANAGEMENT.

The new management of the penitentiary is being sharply criticized, not only by the Republicans who have had to step out, but also by many of the Democrats who assisted them in turning it into their own party's hands in pursuance of the all powerful remedy of "a bill to reorganize." There wasn't absolute unity of sentiment when the trustees were appointed, and it hasn't grown any better since. Those trustees seemed to think that their sole mission was to put their relatives and friends into place. Their President had two nephews and a son-in-law to provide for, beside having an opportunity to get rid of an ugly slander suit by appointing the suitor, the prosecuting attorney and

THAT PRESENTMENT.

The Action of the Westmoreland Grand Jury Reviewed by an Italian Editor.

The following is a translation of an editorial in Saturday's issue of *D'Italia*, an Italian paper published in Philadelphia:

The Grand Jury of Westmoreland county had the impudence and effrontery to declare, by their presentment, that the Italians in this State ought not to work, either single or in squads. In Pennsylvania? The State where the Declaration of Independence was signed! The State which just now offers to the Italian mercantile navy immense advantages and facilities for the transportation of merchandise, and calls to this port a great number of Italian vessels to help in enriching this country! Is it possible, is it to be imagined, or to be believed, that there could be found within her borders a body of jurors who would make such an infamous declaration—who would say that the sons of Columbus should be ostracised in a country called republican, free, and independent; in a country which claims to receive with open arms emigrants from every clime?

To whom do the Government and its citizens owe their riches? To the lazy organ-grinder? to those who live by fraud, at other people's expense? to the *chevalier d'industrie*? or to those who are inured from the cradle to toil; whose hands are hardened with the use of the implements of the husbandman, helping, by the production of cereals for exportation, to pay the national debt; or to the hardy miner, who, resounding the echoes of day, penetrates the bowels of the earth to bring forth the black diamonds to enrich the land.

Is it a crime to earn a livelihood by labor? Have not Italians the same rights as Irish, Germans, French, English, or even negroes? Where do you find a man more industrious or sober than the Italian laborer? Look into any of the Italian liquor stores on Saturday nights after wages are paid. Will you ever see an Italian drunk? Never. These laborers who emigrated to America under the safeguard of their passports to claim protection under the law, instead of wasting their hard-earned money in drink and play, send it to their homes in the old country, where a loving family look with expectant hopes for the return of their husband and brothers, sons and fathers, who, while earning a competency, give riches and happiness to the land of their adoption. It is this class of men that so-called free citizens in a so-called free country want to prevent from working. Who can understand the situation?

Perhaps it was supposed that Italian miners shall join other nationalities, and spend all their money in whisky. They would not, perhaps, be opposed if they should expend all their money in the country to enrich the sellers of poison, or unite with other laborers to enrich a few and keep demagogues in *luxuries* (strike rings.) Who would have dared to Christopher Columbus that the descendants of the bold adventurers who followed in his steps to these shores—who would havesaid, "Sons of Columbus, you have not the same right in this country as an Irish, English, or any vassal continent, but for an Italian, might still be unknown."

Free citizens of Pennsylvania! Will you allow your great State to commit such an ocean, so infamous, so ominious? A blot on your motto, "Virtue, Liberty and Independence." No, no! The sons of Ireles, Miffin, Buchanan, Ralle and Hopkinson will see justice done.

In the name of justice, of those rights which international laws entitle us to; in the name of virtue, independence and liberty, which are the basis of the Constitution of this State; in the name of the fathers and families of our emigrant Italian laborers, we ask protection for their lives, and the enjoyment of the same rights allowed to other nationalities, and hope, in the good sense and integrity of Pennsylvanians, to obtain justice.

THE RAILROAD WAR.

Both Roads Doing a Good Business—No Signs of a Compromise.

There is not much change in the status of affairs between the two great competing lines, the Pennsylvania and the Baltimore and Ohio railroads. A somewhat singular feature of the contest seems to be, that while the Baltimore and Ohio Company are selling immense numbers of tickets, and their passenger trains are daily filled, the trains on the Pennsylvania line show no diminution in the number of passengers. It appears that many more tickets are being purchased over the Baltimore route than are being used, and that these will be kept for future use, after the old tariff of fares is established. If this be so, the cheap fares will continue long after the war is declared ended. The Baltimore *American* says:

"The second week of the railroad war closed on Saturday without the slightest indication as to when or how it would end. The Baltimore and Ohio Company allege that they are making enough tickets to supply all those contemplating trips westward for months to come; that they are running their passenger trains filled to repletion, having in many instances to put on extra cars, and that for these and other good and substantial reasons they mean to fight the battle out if it takes until Christmas. The Pennsylvania Company claim that the alleged extra sales of tickets by the Baltimore and Ohio and increased travel over that road have not caused any diminution in the number of tickets sold via the Pennsylvania route, and that they run the same number of passenger cars with the same number of occupants on the average that they did before President Garrett issued his famous manifesto. Of course, under these circumstances, the Pennsylvania company do not feel the least disposition to yield one jot or tittle. What will be the result of the contest proves that one or the other of the great corporations is right in the claims made or the positions assumed, or whether it will prove another illustration of the well-known story of the Kilkenny cats, remains to be seen. Barring the stockholders of the two companies, the public are fully content to see calmly await the issue, and there are many who are commencing to entertain the conviction that, if the fight is continued much longer, and the stockholders of both roads are to be believed, the problem of cheap transportation is much nearer being solved than ever before."

As to freights there is no material change. The rates given are only good from day to day, and there are often four or five cents difference between those given on two successive days. Agents of both lines always keep the street agents on the alert for shipments. One of the agents for the Pennsylvania Company sports a jagger and a horse that he says he can make railroad time. He has great advantage over his competitors in this respect. Numbers of packing houses are located at Canton, which locality this aristocratic seafarer affirms he can entirely traverse, and secure all the shipments for the day before his friend representing the Baltimore and Ohio reaches the scene. Sometimes after he has gotten through with this portion of his soliciting and be on his return he will meet the latter coming down. Freight agents were never so busy as now, and in these days of hard times, it is better than a circus to watch them cavorting around a large shipper and offering him the "very lowest rates."

PROBABLE MURDER.

Shooting Affray at A Disreputable Drinking House.

A shooting affray took place at about midnight on Saturday, at the desreputable drinking house No. 431 Liberty street opposite the Union Depot. A hanger-on, whose occupation is man named Barney Sullivan and the proprietor of the establishment W. H. Cooke, a man with one legs. Pistols were drawn by Cooke and at Sullivan and the latter was struck by a ball in the stomach. The police arrested Cooke and took him to the lock-up where he now remains. The wounded man was taken to the office of Dr. Pringle and it was found the ball passed through the stomach and lodged in the spine. Sullivan was subsequently removed to his residence at Penn avenue and Twenty-fifty street. He is in a critical condition, and last evening it was reported that he had fallen partly to the difficulty are bad characters and well known to the police. Cooke especially, although being, as stated, without legs, is a bad and unsafe man. He kept the house named for several years, and it has an evil reputation. About one year ago the police were called to the house on a report that the women of the house had been poisoned, and Cooke was suspected of the crime. The women were taken sick after drinking coffee, but as they recovered no investigation was had. The place is reeking with crime, and should be broken up.

Pittsburgh Mortuary Report.

Dr. W. Snively promptly reports the deaths in the city during the week ending February 27th, as follows:

Causes of death: Apoplexy, 3; alcoholism, 1; abcess, 1; tumor, 1; angina pectoris, 1; apoplexy, 1; bronchitis, capillary, 2; Bright's disease, chronic, 1; cleft palate, 1; calculus, cystic, 1; consumption, 6; convulsions, 7; diphtheritis, 3; diabetes, 1; epilepsy, 1; erysipelas, 1; fever, typhoid, 1; fever, scarlet, 5; gastritis, 1; homicide, legal, 1; meningitis, subacute, 1; meningitis, chronic, 1; old age, 3; prematture birth, 1; pneumonitis, 10; scurvy, 1; scrotula, 1; syphilis, congenital, 1; tabes mesenterica, 1. Total, 59.

Of these, 57 were white and 2 colored. Married, 15; single, 6; widows, 1. Nativity—Pittsburgh, 35; other parts of United States, 11; Germany, 7; Ireland, 5; not stated, 1. Age—Under 1 year, 13; from 1 to 5 years, 8; 5 to 10 to 20 years, 3; 20 to 30 years, 4; 30 to 40 years, 3; 40 to 50 years, 6; 50 to 60 years, 3; 60 to 70 years, 5; 70 to 80 years, 1; 80 to 90 years, 2, 90 to 100 years, 1. Total, 59.

Important Railroad Movements.

[From the Norristown Herald.]

The large quantities of railroad materials scored up at Lansdale, in this county, attract much attention. There is now at this place about twenty thousand tons of steel rails. They were mostly purchased at Bethlehem last summer at a reduced price. They are to be used on the new road now being built by the North Pennsylvania Railroad Company, from Jenkintown, in this county, to the Delaware river, and there to connect with a road through New Jersey to New York. The road is now under construction and the early completion of it is certain. In addition to the rails at Lansdale about forty thousand tons more will be needed to finish the road as far as the Delaware. We are informed that the cars for the new line will be exactly like those used on the Stony Creek Railroad, and the contract for furnishing them has already been given to Messrs. Bruce & Co., of Wilmington, Del. Cars from those builders have been used extensively on the North Pennsylvania Railroad.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, March 3, 1875.

There is nothing new or especially remarkable in the business situation at the present writing, trade in all departments being still sluggish. There are several influences at work which are unfavorable to the progress of business, and prevent business men from embarking in new enterprises or making vigorous preparations for the spring trade now so near at hand.

The weather, which has been very severe in all sections of the country, has retarded the movement of products from the West and of merchandise from the East. The freezing of our rivers has prevented the movement of any coal from this port for some months, and the usual business of the Ohio river has altogether ceased.

The revival of agitation in Congress relative to revenue legislation is a very serious cause of disturbance, but fortunately, this will cease at noon to-morrow as far as the Forty-third Congress is concerned. What its successor may do or attempt to do in case the laws already acted on should fail of the desired effect is hard to guess. However, manufacturers and merchants who have been waiting on account of threatened legislation can be free to advance without interference, for nine months at least, after the adjournment of to-morrow.

—How far the railroad war will affect business is not yet decided, but from our reports, so far, both roads are having a large increase in their business, owing to the reduction in freights. While the immediate results will be beneficial to the public in general it will be injurious to the stockholders of the contending companies.

—As announced in our local columns this morning, the warrants of the city of Pittsburgh given in payment of the police are on the street for sale. This has been anticipated for some weeks past, and does not take any one by surprise. This gives a new security to be quoted in our local market, but transactions have so far been few and no reliable figure can be given. The warrants of the city of Philadelphia are regularly quoted each day on 'Change, and we would suggest the propriety of Councils providing that the warrants of this city be placed on as favorable a negotiable basis as those of Philadelphia. There, when the warrants are presented, the date is stamped across their face, and from that date they bear interest at the rate of six per cent. When the city is in funds these warrants, according to their numbers, are called in for redemption.

Their value is thus always known and holders are not compelled to submit to any exhorbitant "shave" as would be necessary if they bore no interest. If our city warrants are allowed to be sold to brokers as they are at present issued, they will not bring 90 per cent. of their value; but should the Councils provide that they bear interest at the legal rate from date of presentation, as it is perfectly just they should, then we may expect to see them selling for their full face value.

—The following bills in reference to Kansas bonds are of interest. They were read a third time and passed in the Senate:

House bill No. 101, to enable the board of County Commissioners of Lycoming, Kansas, to fund the railroad bond indebtedness of said township.

House bill No. 199, to authorize E school district No. 2, Osborn county, to issue a bond.

House bill No. 98, to amend an act regulating the salary of county superintendents. Approved March 3, 1869.

House bill No. 222, to authorize the board of county Commissioners of Harvey county to issue bonds in settlement of funding and paying certain indebtedness.

House bill No. 17, to provide for the funding the outstanding indebtedness of counties, cities and townships, and levying a tax therefor.

House bill No. 209, to authorize the county Commissioners of Elk county to issue bonds for the purpose of funding and paying certain indebtedness.

Senate bill No. 197, to authorize the board of County Commissioners of Greenwood county, Kansas, to issue bonds in the name of said county to liquidate the liabilities of said county, created by the donation of the late County Treasurer of said county.

—We extract the following information from the report of the State Railroad Commissioners of Massachusetts: Of the sixty corporations reporting twenty-nine paid dividends varying from one to ten per cent., and averaging on the entire stock of all the dividend paying roads nine per cent. Sixteen corporations, representing $7,233,000 stock, paid no dividends. As interest $2,791,572 was paid, but in a manner as stated, which makes it bore to the actual amount borrowed, as some of the corporations issued their obligations at a premium and others at a discount. Meanwhile, the net earnings, including money paid on interest as well as dividends, averaged 6.40 per cent. on the total capital stock, a considerable gain over the total results of the previous year. The Commissioners reiterate their complaint relating to the irregularity in the methods of book-keeping made use of by the companies, and the consequent confusion in the returns to the Commissioners' office. For this reason the report is not so full in detail and so accurate as it might be; but it is a vast improvement on the reports of other States, and gives extremely valuable information for railroad men.

BANKERS & BROKERS, No. 7 NEW STREET. }
NEW YORK, March 2, 1875.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

Our stock market opened very strong and excited at an improvement of ½@1 per cent. over prices current at the close yesterday. The first strength improvement was in Pacific Mail, which opened with large sales at 28¾ and quickly sold up to 30, with reactionary spent at 29¾, an advance of ¾ per cent. Western Union at 73¾. Union Pacific at 42. The early transactions in Pacific Mail were the forerunner of the list, but prices soon stiffened, and by noon showed an advance of ¾@1 per cent. over opening prices. The greatest improvement was in Northwestern, which sold at 39¾@40. We learn that a pool has been effected and that the Legislature of Wisconsin will pass a law considerably modifying the Usury law. Pacific Mail sold subsequently to 30¾. Union Pacific to 42¾, and Western Union to 73¾. Towards the close of the session carried prices off, the greatest decline being in Pacific Mail, which sold down to 30¼. All in those the market is strong as a result of improvement upon the lowest prices of the day. Money is at unchanged rates.

Yours truly, TRASK & STONE.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day. Furnished by the St. Clair Banking Company, No. 16 Sixth street:

	10:30	11:30	12:30	1:30	2:30	3:00
Gold	114⅝	114⅝	114⅝	115	115	115
U. S. 6's, 1881, coup.	119½					119¾
5-20's, 1865	119¾					119¾
5-20's, 1865, coup.	119¾					119¾
5-20's, 1867	119¾					119¾
5-20's, 1867, Registered	119½					119½
5-20's, 1868	119¾					119¾
10-40's, coupons	113¾					113¾
Currency 6's	118½					118½
Western Union Tel.	73⅝	74⅛	73⅞	75	74⅜	75
Pacific Mail	30¼	30¾	30	30	30	30
Panama						111
Adams Express						95½
Wells-Fargo Express		83¾				83¾
American Express		62½				62½
United Lines	97⅜	98				98
New York Central	104¼	104⅜				104⅜
Erie	27¾	28				28
Michigan Central		98				98
Michigan Southern	73⅞	74				73⅞
Illinois Central		100				100
Cleveland & Pittsburgh		94				94
Chicago & North'w'n	41¾	41¾	42¼			42¼
Do preferred						65
Rock Island	103⅝	103½	103½			103½
St. Paul, common	34¾		34¾			34¾
Do preferred						72
Wabash, common	12¾	12⅝	12¾	12		11⅞
Fort Wayne		98				98
Ohio & Mississippi	26¼	26¼	26¼			26¼
Union Pacific	42¼	42¾	42¾			42¾
Harlem		128½				128
Hannibal & St. Jo.	21	21	21			21
C. & A.	6	6	6¼			6¼
Tennessee, old						63
Do, new						64½
South Carolina, Ap'l						30
North Carolina, 6's						30
Missouri 6's						97

—The following is a report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

	Bid.	Asked.
Pennsylvania Central	55	55¼
Pennsylvania Central Scrip	107¾	
Reading, sales	20¾	
United 'cts of N. Jersey	132½	
Oil Creek	11	11½
Lehigh Valley	63¾	
Allegheny Valley, sales	91¾	
Central Transportation Co	44¾	
Empire Transportation Co	53½	
Pitts., Cin. and St. L., m. b.	73¾	74¼

GENERAL MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, }
THURSDAY, March 4, 1875. }

The unfavorable weather prevalent to-day interfered with trade to a considerable extent, and rendered business rather slow and unsatisfactory. There were, of course, exceptions to this state of affairs, but as a general thing the trade movement was sluggish and limited. The Chamber of Commerce meeting this morning was well attended, and in addition to active transactions, there was a lively discussion of the results of the Chamber's action in the matter of the reduction in freights. While the immediate results will be beneficial to the public in general it will be injurious to the stockholders of the contending companies.

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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1875.

THE total importations at the port of New York for the first two months of the present year amount to $21,640,267, against $22,297,592 during the corresponding period last year, $22,656,965 for the year previous, and $33,960,074 in 1872. There is, however, a large increase in the amount entered for consumption, the activity no doubt having been due to the tariff bill, recently passed, importers of course being anxious to save the ten per cent. duties on as many goods as they felt they were able to market.

SOME idea of the enormous amount of money paid out for hogs in the West may be gained when it is stated that in Chicago the purchases of live hogs for packing alone, down to last Saturday, footed up to thirty million dollars. This does not include the money paid for dressed hogs, or those purchased for shipment. With the stiff prices that have ruled for hogs, can there be any doubt that those sections where they are produced are full of money? Their prosperity, for the present year at least, is now well assured.

AND now the Democratic Commonwealth of Georgia takes her place among the other repudiating States of the South, her Legislature having just declared unconstitutional, null and void the second series of $600,000 in bonds, indorsed by the State in 1870, issued to the Macon and Brunswick Railroad, notwithstanding that the indorsement was declared valid and binding by the Legislature of 1872. This is repudiation, simple and naked, and stands as a fair specimen of Democratic veracity and honor.

ACCORDING to the official returns, which have just reached us, the imports of wheat into Great Britain during the month of January, amounted to 2,627,060 cwt., of which 1,438,384 cwt. were from the United States. Compared with the corresponding month of last year, there is a dimunition of rather more than one million cwt. Of flour the imports have been 519,795 cwt., against 662,420 cwt.; while those of barley have increased from 748,396 cwt. in 1874 to 1,295,935 cwt., and of Indian corn from 952,-165 cwt. to 1,305,605 cwt.

THE Democratic Legislature of North Carolina has just expelled a Republican member, on the ground that he is an Infidel, and that his doctrines are "subversive of the principles of the State Constitution, and sound morals." This is the same immaculately pious body which the other day passed a bill practically disfranchising the colored voters of Wilmington, and reviving, in a new form, the old slavery doctrine that the master should cast the vote of his chattels—subvefting, thereby, alike "the principles" of the United States Constitution and of the New Testament.

THE United States District Court of Chicago has just rendered an important decision concerning the construction of the National Banking law. The question before the court was whether there was the power in any court to appoint a receiver to wind up the affairs of the bank in defense, or whether the delegation by the banking law of the power to the Comptroller of the Currency to appoint a receiver in certain contingencies does not exclude the authority of any other tribunal to do so. It was held that a court of equity has the power, where no other remedy exists, to marshal and distribute the assets of an insolvent corporation, just as an individual.

THE committee of Boston capitalists recently appointed to inspect the proposed new railroad route from that city to the West, rendered their report last Saturday. It is very long, but its principal suggestion is the recommendation of Poughkeepsie as the most eligible site for the erection of a bridge across the Hudson river. The total estimated cost is $3,500,000 for a single track bridge, or $4,400,000 for a double track bridge, and the estimates of income show that if the bridge be worked to its full capacity, a toll of one cent per ton would pay ten per cent dividend on the highest estimated cost. The investment by Boston and other Eastern capitalists in the bridge stock is warmly advised.

IN CONSEQUENCE of certain indications of the existence of an oil basin in the vicinity of Des Moines, Iowa, a thorough geological examination of the tract in question was recently made, the conclusion being that such a basin does exist, comprising an area of six miles in length by four in breadth. The oil sand-rock of this State was found, and petroleum at various points in some of its incipient forms, was also discovered. A well was sunk, and, at the depth of forty feet, reached a cavity filled with gas, which corresponded with the wells in this State. It is the general opinion that oil paying quantities can be found in the basin by digging deep enough below the surface.

THE Democratic Legislature of West Virginia has ordered the impeachment of two Democratic State officers, the State Auditor and State Treasurer. We are not told what they have been impeached for; but it is certain it was not for voting the Republican ticket. Both of these officers are Democrats, and it is presumable they belong to the first families of that State. Their impeachment by a Democratic Legislature is pretty clear proof that their case must be a very bad one. If it had been capable of being covered up, the world would never have heard of it. We fear very much, from these and kindred developments, that the Democratic victories of last year have not brought the millennium about, as was expected. These two delinquents, while they were out of office, doubtless denounced every Republican office-holder as a thief; and as soon as they got into office themselves proceeded to show how easy it was for Democrats to do the very thing they charged their opponents with doing.

THE advance synopsis of the November report of the Bureau of Statistics, just received, shows that our imports for that month were $38,341,171, as against $39,085,743 for November, 1873, while the exports were $53,270,556, as against $55,731,894 in the previous year. For the eleven months ending November 30, the imports were $538,366,136, and the exports $552,449,329; the previous year the figures were $589,343,639 and $543,948,551 respectively. The total value of foreign commodities remaining in the warehouses of the United States November 30, 1874, was $44,185,852, as compared with $67,507,222 at the corresponding period of 1873. Allowing for the difference in the warehouse account, the net exports for the eleven months ended November 30, 1874, exceeded the total imports by $52,454,445, while, for the relating period of the previous year, the imports exceeded the exports by $21,454,-241. These figures show that whilst our imports have been steadily growing smaller, our exports have been largely increased. We have lost in revenue, but gained in domestic wealth. The exhibit is by no means discouraging.

THE massacre of Protestants in Mexico, by an ignorant rabble under priestly lead, is an evidence, on the one hand, of the kind of popular education which prevails where the Catholic Church has undisputed sway, and on the other hand, of the total inefficiency of mere legal guaranties of religious toleration, in the hands of a government too weak to enforce them. The Constitution of Mexico guarantees freedom of speech and religious toleration; yet the Government of that country is and has been totally unable to give these guarantees any practical effect. The mob murders Protestants at will, the church smiles its approval, and the State wrings its inefficient hands in despair at its utter helplessness.

The church, it is to be noted, has had full swing in Mexico from time immemorial. It has been free to establish there whatever system of education it chose. And what has it accomplished? Have the masses of the people of Mexico any education whatever? Are they not an ignorant, besotted, bigoted and fanatical people, their bigotry and fanaticism being the direct result of their ignorance? They make very effective murderers, when the lives of Protestants are wanted; but to what other purposes have they been educated? As assassins they are certainly a success; as good citizens they are as certainly a failure.

Now that the House has passed the new Revenue bill, and has wisely, as we think, confined the increased taxes on whisky and tobacco to a moderate rate, we trust that the Senate will see its way to passing it, as promptly as may be.

The Constitution has conferred upon the House the exclusive right to originate revenue bills, because it comes directly from the people and speaks their voice. The expression given to it, in this instance, should therefore have its weight with the Senate, and induce it to comply with the legislation framed by the direct representatives of the people. The Senate, of course, has its right to amend the work of the House; but it cannot afford to set aside that work, altogether, and leave the nation without the resources needed to carry on the Government.

The ten per cent. reduction in the general tariff which was adopted a few years ago under the assurance that the Government had enough revenue, even with this reduction, was not intended to be permanent. It was in the nature of an experiment to ascertain whether the Government could get along with ninety per cent. of the duties levied by the tariff; and now that our experiences since the panic of 1873 has demonstrated that the reduction cannot be afforded, it is the duty of Congress to restore the ten per cent. lopped off, and so secure a revenue that can be raised less oppressively by a tariff than by any other method.

The other provisions of the bill increase slightly the imposts upon sugar, tobacco and spirits—three subjects of taxation the best able to bear the burden. The changes wrought by the bill are not great, and will not disarrange any business whatever; and the sooner it is passed the better.

EDUCATION OF THE FRIENDLESS.

The discussion of the question of compulsory education, growing out of the attempt to introduce that system in Pennsylvania, has given rise to the incidental question, what, if you are going to enforce the attendance of all children at schools, is to be done with those children of the extremely poor, whose parents or guardians cannot maintain them, much less clothe them fit to attend any school whatever?

It must be manifest to the most superficial observer that the children who are wandering about the streets in rags, without sufficient clothing, without shoes, without hats, dirty, unkempt, and almost uncared for, cannot be expected to attend school, *as they are*, with other children in better condition. They must either have schools specially set apart for them, or the state, which forces their attendance, must fit them for attending.

A bill lately submitted to the State Senate, and negatived by its Committee on Education, had a bearing upon this question; but it was framed in such a manner as to hide, measurably, its real purpose, and hence the negative which the proper committee put upon it. Had it been more frankly drawn it might have fared better.

The real object of the bill, it is now given out, was to tax the State with the cost, merely, of the education of the waifs and strays that are picked up off the streets, in a condition unfit to attend the public schools, and entrust the feeding and the clothing of them to those charitable people who have provided institutions for that purpose.

The Philadelphia *Bulletin* cites the Northern Home for Friendless Children as an institution of this kind, and there are many others of a similar nature in that city, although they are not numerous elsewhere. These institutions gather up the friendless or the needy young, clothe them, feed them and educate them, with great credit to humanity in general, and to those engaged in carrying them on, in particular. The claim is now set up that it is enough for individual benevolence to feed and clothe these waifs of the community; and that the State, in exercising it as her right and duty to see that all are educated, should bear the cost of the education of those whom private charity has rescued from exposure and want, or cause the burden of it to be thrown upon the school fund of the municipality in which the needy and friendless are found.

This seems reasonable enough, stated as a general principle, and some such measure *must be* adopted if compulsory education becomes a part of the law. The bill we have referred to essayed to do this by charging the school district in which such an institution is maintained with so much, per head, for each child annually educated in it; but this might result, in its practical operation, in throwing the whole burden of educating the friendless of an entire city upon a single school district.

Evidently the subject is one which has many sides, and it cannot be understood, in all its length and breadth, without careful and thorough examination. What, for instance, would be the effect of the establishment of such a principle, in encouraging *sectarian* schools for the friendless? If the State or the general school fund assumes to pay so much a year for the education of the extremely poor or friendless in charitable institutions, what is to hinder the formation of such institutions under purely sectarian control? There are plenty of such already existing; and if the State compels the trustees of the Philadelphia school fund to pay the Northern Home for Friendless Children so much per annum for each child educated within its walls, and so much for every other child educated in similar schools, with what consistency can it shut the doors of the same fund in the faces of the various sectarian orphans' asylums?

If the State is to compel the education of all, it must see that the means are provided for the education it exacts of its embryo citizens. It costs eleven dollars a head, annually, to teach each of the children educated in Pittsburgh; and if it costs that to educate them in the public schools, why, if many not now attending school, are gathered into charitable institutions and taught, should not the school fund of the city contribute an equal amount for *their* education? Our present schools and school system are not adequate, as at present arranged, for attending to the peculiar wants of these peculiar classes; and if the State imposes a penalty for non-attendance at school, it must either furnish the school, or see that those who do furnish it are properly paid.

There are incidental questions, as we have said, growing out of the great question of compulsory education. It is very easy to snarl at the Legislature for not solving such problems as these in a day; but the view widens out as the discussion progresses; and the longer it is kept up, the greater the necessity grows for making haste slowly. It is always well enough to look before you leap, and see where you are going to alight. When a State is asked to adopt a general principle for its guidance, simply to cover some specific case, those who ask it must remember that any general principle, once adopted, must be followed out to its legitimate consequences. It cannot be confined to the single case it was originally intended to aid.

THE Democratic State Treasurer of Georgia is short in his accounts about a million of dollars. As he is a blue-blooded native Georgian, says "whar" for where, drinks whisky, and swears by TOOMBS and GORDON, and is neither a negro, a Republican nor a carpet-bagger, the difficulty is to comprehend how a high-toned native, believing in "home rule" and detesting GRANT and all his "minions," could possibly be guilty of such a thing. The Democrats of Georgia, as of all the other States, being the political party in office, and being committed to the doctrine that the Democracy is the only party that can honestly administer the Government, it behooves them to explain how this big steal came about. It cannot be blamed upon GRANT; nor upon the Republicans; for, thanks to the Ku-Klux, no Republican is allowed to hold office in Georgia. Democracy has full sway there, uncontrolled and uninfluenced by any minority party. The blessed reign of the bowie-knife and pistol is unbroken throughout the length and breadth of the State. If we are to look for the pure and unadulterated article of Democracy anywhere, surely it must be in Georgia.

And yet this is what it produces, there. The State grumbles at its debt, and higgles over the payment of interest upon it; and while it drives a hard bargain with its despondent and long-disappointed creditors, it permits its chief financial officer to steal a million of its money. What did he do with it? Did he "divide?" Did the honest Democratic managers of the politics of the State get their share of the swag? Did the Ku-Klux chiefs get enough of it to buy full supplies of improved rifles, ammunition, and masks? Or was the fellow a greedy thief, who kept for his own use all he stole? If he made an equal division of his plunder, he can rest assured that he will never be brought to book; and if he did not, he can yet cover up his tracks, he will have one consolation in his temporary retirement from public life, that his standing in his party will not be the least affected by the unfortunate discovery of his shortcomings.

Why is it, one is tempted to ask, that all the thieves of public money, who are short in large amounts, are Democrats? SWARTWOUT, who cheated the Government out of over a million in the New York Custom House, was a Democrat. FOWLER, Postmaster of that city, who was short in nearly a similar amount, was a Democrat; the Deputy State Treasurer of New York, who was detected in lavishly helping himself to the State funds, was a Democrat; and the long roll of defaulters in the list of county treasurers in Ohio, who are each short from $50,000 to $200,000 in their settlements, are all Democrats, as it happens. The Democratic party, it is well known, is a "Reform" party; it blows intensely about putting up none but pure men for office, and is very much shocked at the "corruption" which is alleged to prevail in the Republican ranks; yet somehow, when some of its men get into office, they can steal with a grandness and to an extent that defies all competition from any quarter whatever.

We might have included in our list the name of JOHN MILLER, Chairman of the Democratic State Committee of Pennsylvania, who, when Postmaster of Philadelphia, is said to have accepted $25,000 as the consideration of a decision of his as Postmaster, in favor of the purchase of a site from the old Bank of Pennsylvania for a postoffice building, and his successor, WESTCOTT, who left office a defaulter; but these were small sums compared with Democratic stealing in other States, and MILLER was compelled, finally, to disgorge his little pile. We cannot pretend to put up our State as a competitor with New York, Ohio and Georgia, and, upon the whole, we are inclined to be rather proud of our old State, when we think that she is out of the range of such comparisons. There is not a Democrat in the whole State of Georgia, including her rat-catchers and sand-billers, her clay-eaters and "poor white trash" generally, who does not think himself superior to any Pennsylvanian that ever was born; and if the comparison is to be confined to the one item of astounding defalcations, we acknowledge the superiority without a contest.

Signs of the Times.

[From Harpers' Weekly.]

More than three months have passed since the autumn elections. It is time to consider what evidence there is from the acts and deeds of the Democratic party, since the victory in its name at the polls, that it is a party with a new spirit and purpose, and not the same old organization that sustained slavery, plunged the country into war, and resisted the guarantees of equal rights in reconstruction. The first thing that is observable is the fact of a very general relief at the prospect of a Democratic victory in 1876, and an alarm which is not in the least relieved, but greatly increased, by what are seen to be mistakes of policy upon the part of the Republicans. The alarm springs from the perception that while the Democratic party insists upon conciliation, it assumes to conciliate the late disaffected class in the Southern States: that while it preaches the golden rule and brotherly love, it sees the negro humbled and harried without protest; and that it chiefly honors those who were known during the war as copperheads or Confederates. The fact that they may be his ablest men is not reassuring in view of other facts.

The Democrats have returned one hundred and twelve ex-Confederate soldiers to congress. The Southern States, with Maryland, Delaware and Kentucky, elect one hundred and thirty-eight members. Of these all but twenty-six are from the late Confederate army. This fact alone disposes of the Democratic assertion that the Republican policy is one of hatred and revenge, and that the party rejects conciliation and insists upon tyranny. When the war ended it was left in absolute control of the Government. It could have dictated any terms, and the country would have acquiesced. But not a drop of blood was shed in vengeance. It established no system of confiscation. It merely made every man free and a citizen, and embodied his rights in the fundamental law. This was by no means very iniquitous. It was a magnanimity unparalleled in history; and had it been met in the same spirit by the Democratic party, the peace and happiness of the country would have been assured.

But that party, bent upon its own interest and not upon the welfare of the country, sought in every way to perplex reconstruction and bring it to naught. The recent story of the Southern States is familiar. If the Republicans have committed great errors, if frauds and military coercion can be urged against them, equal frauds, with political murder and terrorism—the Ku-Klux, the White League massacres, and open and bloody revolution in New Orleans last September—can be truthfully alleged against the Democratic party. That under absolute Democratic domination in the Southern States a Republican would be no safer now than an abolitionists before the war is asserted in a private letter printed in the New York *Times*, and in the state of Southern society such as the late number of the *Nation* described, nothing is more probable. Meanwhile, in other parts of the country the Democratic party sends typical copperheads like Mr. EATON, of Connecticut, to the Senate and sends Carl Mr. Schurz, the apostle of the Democracy as it pretends to be, by a gentleman of whom nothing is known but that he was in uncompromising hostility to the Administration. We do not recall such facts reproachfully. The more sincere were the convictions of these gentlemen, the less should they be intrusted with the control of the Government.

Simultaneously events in Louisiana have elicited from the press and orators of the Democratic party a vituperation of the Administration, and especially of General Sheridan, the ferocious tone of which shows that it is the outburst of a long-pent hatred of that officer, who headed the last division to his illustrious service in the war. We have certainly not justified his "bandit" dispatch. But we have never doubted that it was the indignant outcome of an honest soldier plainly unfit for civil administration. But never by any Democratic newspaper or orator were the treachery of Lee and most successful rebels, Twiggs, or the unspeakable infamies of Andersonville and Belle Isle, or the massacres of innocent men at New Orleans in 1865, at Coushatta, and at Colfax, so denounced as the dispatch of General Sheridan. Mr. Bayard, of Delaware, declared in the Senate that this gallant soldier, who has done more than the whole Democratic party to keep this republic free, was unfit to breathe the free air of the republic," as reported in the papers, but, according to the *Record*, "Who shall say whether he is even fit to breathe the air of republican government?" Who is Mr. Bayard, of Delaware, who thus denounces Sheridan and extols freedom? He is the Senator of a State in which he and his political friends maintained human slavery as long as they could, and a leader of the party whose sole policy for more than a generation was to make this a slave republic.

Meanwhile, in the session of Congress now closing, the conduct of the Democrats, who have a majority in the next House, shows the old tone—the tone which Democratic success would restore to the Government. The episode of Mr. John Young Brown's performance, for which he received the censure of the House, through the Speaker, and the earnest efforts of the Democratic party to shield him from that censure after his plain prevarication, show the fire of the old feeling still burning—a fire which is not likely to be quenched, and tranquility should it by success extend and obtain the mastery. Where, in all the orations and resolutions and leading articles of the Democratic party, for the last ten years, is found any word of hearty satisfaction that the rebellion of slavery was defeated, and that every man within the national domain is free?

Again, and as another significant sign of the times, there is the conduct of the Democratic party in Illinois and Missouri in regard to the public schools. In the State of New York the Roman Catholic hostility to the public school system has always depended upon that party. It has been always the Democratic policy to win the Irish vote, and to do it by grants and favors to the Roman Church. The Democratic gifts of the public money and property in this State to that sect have been enormous. The party does not dare to oppose the Roman priesthood to the point of incurring their hostility, and the unanimous and open exposure of priestly politics as an attack upon religious liberty. But should the common school system ever be overthrown, it will be by the Democratic party, as the price of the Catholic vote. The first measure is the sectarian division of the school fund, and the Democratic movement to that end, especially in Illinois, is already powerful and threatening.

These and such as these are the signs of the times. Do they suggest the wisdom of a Democratic restoration? That a party strongest in the slums of great cities and weakest in the most industrious and prosperous parts of the country is not more truly representative of American character and intelligence than its opponents is obvious. That the Democratic party of the Union is in any degree whatever more faithful to law, more respectful of the Constitution, more jealous of liberty, or more resolved upon justice than the Republican is simply absurd. Could the policy of Andrew Johnson have been carried out, and the Democratic policy of restoration, as shown in the black codes and vagrant laws, have been adopted, the abolition of the negro would be happy as it is in many ways, would have been intolerable. The maintenance of the Republican organization, which is the only one under which the election of 1876 can be contested, is therefore indispensable.

No man who has been a supporter of the party during and since the war, however deeply he may regret what he thinks the serious errors that imperil its ascendency, can contemplate the possible success of the Democrats without profound uneasiness, and in the actual alternative that is offered he will not readily renounce the only political organization around which those who can defeat the Democracy may be rallied. On the other hand, the condition of that rally is plain to the dullest mind. The elections have shown that Republicans will not "go it blind," nor stick through thick and thin to whatever may be done in the name of the party. Nothing is more evident than the dangerous minority of Republicans—very many more than those who hold the balance of power—would even think Democratic success a preferable evil to a Republican policy of desperation or of doubtful constitutionality inspired by political sharpers and toadies. The conciliation of firm adherence to declared principles, trust in the American doctrine of lawful local government, the Statecraft which, like the sailor's skill, makes even a head-wind serve, strict regard for the indispensable conditions of free government, patience, tact, forbearance, are essential to a policy that shall reunite the Republican party. The times are critical. Republicans are independent. Let the leaders be wise, and they will find themselves supported by all the old conviction and enthusiasm.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

California has wheat three feet above the ground.

The King of Burmah is going to start a newspaper.

And now the Illinois Central and Chicago and Alton roads are preparing for war.

The freshet in Tennessee is the most destructive one that has visited that State for years.

A Long Island farmer, who is suffering with small-pox, took the disease from a pet dog.

Nearly all the Munich artists have the intention of sending contributions to our Centennial Exhibition.

And now it turns out that Senator Cameron, of Wisconsin, is no more a Democrat than a rose is a cabbage.

The American and National Express companies were yesterday consolidated under the former name.

Nasby defines the Boston Radical Club as "the Den of the Unintelligible, where they talk about the Unknowable."

Three of this winter's Legislatures have finished their work and adjourned—those of Nebraska, West Virginia and Maine.

Invalids and tourists returning from Florida report that the climate down there is exceptionally disagreeable this winter.

The Hubbites complain that the recent cooping of poultry in their Music hall has impregnated that edifice with an odor past endurance.

The cocoanut tree has been successfully planted in Florida, and its products will soon be sent from that State to the Northern markets.

The number of wooden houses in Chicago keeps that municipality in an anxious frame of mind, anticipatory of another conflagration.

Old business men of Colorado are getting the gold fever anew, and are leaving their business in Denver and other places for operations in the mines.

Chicago packers, during the packing season ending last Saturday, have handled 1,671,739 hogs, against 1,522,217 for the same period last season.

The building of a railroad through the White Mountains has gone steadily forward during the recent freezing term, one thousand men being engaged.

A slaughtered chicken, with a lump of gold in its gizzard has set the people of Belle Plaine, Iowa, to hunting for the spot on which the gluttonous fowl took its final meal.

England is charmed with the admirable state of preservation of some canned beef which is as fresh now as when put up a score of years ago for the British soldiers in the Crimea.

The people of Lyons, New York, are buying ice at a dollar a ton and melting it down so as to obtain water to meet their wants. Two-thirds of the cisterns of that place are dry.

A scheme for the redivision of Illinois and Indiana is soon to be brought up in the Legislature of the latter State. The idea is to unite the northern and southern parts of the two States.

An event which calls for Barnum's investigation is reported from Owen, Kentucky, where a mule, having lost her colt, is alleged to have adopted and reared a brood of goslings instead.

A Rhode Island paper says that a man was fined five dollars and costs in Providence last week, "for indecent intoxication." What is the punishment for the other kind of drunkenness?

Joint-stock religion. The British National Association of Spiritualists have formed themselves into a limited liability company, in order to propagate their creed by means of lectures and publications.

A Hartford, Connecticut, man now in South America, has obtained from the Brazilian Government the exclusive privilege for eight years to introduce a system of extinguishing fires by the use of chemicals.

Sewing schools were established in Providence, Rhode Island, seven years ago. Within that period 1,120 girls, gathered from the streets have attended it, 700 of whom are now employed as seamstresses at good wages.

Holland has 12,000 windmills in operation, each doing a six or ten-horse power service, through the twenty-four hours. They are kept up at an annual cost of $4,000,000, and perform all the service required of steam engines at one-twentieth the cost.

Under the act of Congress offering one hundred and sixty acres of land to any person who would plant forty acres of them in trees and cultivate them for eight years, about eleven hundred persons had taken up one hundred and seventy thousand acres of land in Minnesota, up to January.

Disestablishment is in the very air of England, and with it secular education by the State must come in. There will soon be no Established Church in Scotland; India moves in the same direction, and it will not be long before every dependency of Great Britain is free of the State Church yoke.

PERSONAL.

The old jail in Knoxville, Tenn., where Parson Brownlow was once locked up for expressing Union views, is being torn down, and a day or two since the old man had the extreme delight of scrambling down the street and watching the demolition.

Mr. George Smith has discovered among the Assyrian tablets in the British Museum the legend of the building of the Tower of Babel. The discovery is quite as important as that of the tablet relating to the Deluge, made known last year by the same gentleman.

James Murphy, Jr., the Irish giant, died in Baltimore on Friday, of bronchial affection, aged thirty-three. Murphy travelled several years with Barnum, and was well known in the United States. He was about eight feet high, and weighed three hundred and fifty pounds.

In a late number of the English *Army Gazette* appears the following significant announcement: "Major the Hon. Walter Harbord, of the Seventh Hussars, is removed from the army. He has evidently no further occasion for his services." He was cashiered for cheating at cards.

Mr. Doughty White, proprietor of the Manchester (Ky.) salt works, and father of John D. White, recently elected Republican Congressman from the Ninth Kentucky district, committed suicide a few days since by shotgunning. Before throwing himself into the water he tied himself so that he could not escape. The act is supposed to have been prompted by insanity. His brother, John White, once Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, terminated his life by suicide.

One of the contributions to the *Ark*, the paper published at the Boston fair in aid of the Society for the Prevention, etc., is an article by James T. Fields on "A Church-going Dog." The complimentary notice was recently sent to Castle Rag, a noble setter of Weymouth, and, on Saturday, he made his appearance gayly decked and wearing on his collar a note as follows: "As I am the only dog invited to represent Norfolk county, I have accepted the invitation, and all the dogs of Norfolk county join with me in approbation of the fair and its objects." He received more attention than anybody else present.

The President has appointed Dr. Wines, of New York, Commissioner to the International Prison Congress to be held at Rome next year. The International Penitentiary Commission, created by the Congress of London, of which the American Commissioner is President, will meet at Bruschal, Grand Duchy of Baden, in September, to frame a programme of procedure, and make all necessary arrangements for the Congress of Rome. Dr. Wines has been requested by his colleagues to prepare and lay before the approaching Congress a comprehensive review of the progress of prison reform throughout the civilized world; and it is understood that he will spend some time abroad, making the investigations necessary to a satisfactory discharge of that duty.

THE London correspondent of the Brighton *Daily News* writes: "On Sunday morning Mr. Moncure Conway, preaching his usual sermon in his chapel in Fensbury, made a strong attact upon the National Church but subsequently modified it so far as to admit that it was possible for some clergymen of the church to be of use in their day and generation, and he referred especially to the rector of a neighboring parish, whom he did not name, but who was evidently Mr. Septimus Hansard, rector of Bethnal Green who is now lying dangerously ill of scarlet fever. This is the third perilous illness he has had since he has been in his parish; each time it was caught while visiting his sick poor. On one occasion he fell down suddenly ill in his pulpit. It was found that he was suffering from small-pox, and he at once said that he would go [illegible] a cab was brought to take him there, but he refused to enter it, lest he should be the means of infecting other persons; and a hearse happening to pass, he declared that he would go in that, and in it he went to the hospital—a rare instance this of pluck and self-devotion. His next illness was typhus fever; and now, as I have said, he is suffering from a disease more terrible still. Five hundred a year (and two curates to pay out of it) is scarcely excessive payment for such a life as that."

SPRING FASHIONS.

All About the New Fabrics and Costumes.

LYONS NOVELTIES AND SILKS.

Old Probabilities.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

NEW YORK, February 28, 1875.

Nothing could suit business less than the weather which has been vouchsafed to us through "Old Probabilities." Since last autumn the extension of the warmth and beauty of our second summer into December held off trade in winter furs and fabrics just when it should have reached its height, nor did the severity of January and February renew it except to a limited extent. The cold weather in February, on the contrary, brought business to a dead stand still. Winter supplies were not needed or could be got along without, while no one felt like purchasing for spring. Lent, moreover, coming unusually early, put a stop to balls and festivities of all sorts requiring particularly elegant dresses and left all those interests which depend on ladies' dress stranded for a time on a barren and inhospitable shore.

The prospect is brightening now, however. There is a more healthful feeling throughout mercantile circles. Spring industries are becoming active and promised to flourish like spring grass, and spring fashions are beginning to make their appearance here and there in such glimpses as one obtains of the crocus or the trailing arbutus, under the dead leaves of the fall and winter. What they are to be? is an all important question with thousands of women, from whom fashion is really as remote as China, and who would be just as well off, and better, following all their own ideas and working up the subject of dress from their own point of view.

"I never look at a fashion plate," said one of the most successful dressmakers in New York, the other day. "I design for my clientel, and I will undertake to make an outfit for Saratoga in February that shall surpass in style, distinction and originality (and *these* are fashion) anything made in this country or brought from Paris in May." I believed her. Quick, bright, active, with a genius for dress, she was master of the situation. I could not help comparing her position at the head of her dressmaking department of a large and fashionable house, with that of many helpless women, wives of rich husbands, perhaps, but dependent as children, and hardly able to perform the simplest act without royal permission.

This was no French madame, but a young, fresh looking woman of Irish parentage, lifted out of her life of hard hand labor by the industrious cultivation of a naturally quick perception and mother wit. It was a treat to her to step from her coupe to the door of her place of business, walk with her quiet, assured manner to her own special department, lay aside her wrappings, which the lightly bowing inmates had received and taken charge of by a young lady attendant, and proceed to the inspection of a work-room on an upper floor.

Here the sight was one that would be curious enough to an unaccustomed eye; pink, blue, green, white and black silks and satins lay about in endless profusion. Long tables for cutting occupied part of the seeming miles of space, and upon others—cut low for the purpose—stood girls who were selling as lay figures for the adjustment of trimmings, flounces, trains, draping of overskirts, and the like. The presiding genius of the busy scene took in all the details at a glance. Her orders were given with the rapidity, minuteness and accuracy of a general commanding an army. Nothing escaped her and nothing seemed to have been forgotten. I could express the feeling of delight and pleasure with which I saw the exhibition of unconscious power and the air of command. Here was a woman in the ranks, not above the ranks, making no vulgar pretense, but actually queening it in her own right, as few of her fashionable customers would ever dare to do. "Oh!" I thought, "if women could only see this and recognize it, learn how to obtain power by the exercise of their own faculties, the world would no longer echo to the sound of their moanings and complainings."

SPRING FABRICS.

It is prints, cambrics and percales that always strike the first notes of approaching spring. After St. Valentine's day they begin to make their appearance in the shop windows, and upon bright, sunny February mornings peep delicately and attractively forth upon the passers-by and tempt ladies to a purchase which, though not always what they want, is neither important enough nor unwise enough to regret. It is only this that the earliest fabrics shown usually belong to last year's styles and are superseded later by something which everyone recognizes as something new and fresher. The stripes and the dots, for example, look pretty enough until you have seen the imitations of diagonals with checks of all possible sizes, invisible checks with borders in distinct colors, and the perfect imitation of the mesh of a fishnet with lace like border in black or white. These are so near they cannot be told apart, and they are bound to make." They are accompanied by plates showing the style of making; a walking skirt with a single flounce edged with knife plaiting, a tablier overskirt with sash and basque and square collar, all finished with the border, and therefore require no other trimmings. The finish of these cottons is fully equal to foulard, and the patterns are those of handsome diagonal and embroidered wool. The new open English embroidery is also imitated most successfully, the pretty wheel patterns framing the body part of the dress, and handsome leaves or ovals, in perfect imitation of English embroidery, the border. There are also small chintz patterns in the borders, but these are not in demand, the preference being decidedly for the gray grounds and cloth, lace or embroidery patterns.

NEW CAMEL'S-HAIR CLOTH.

There are no novelties, except in design, in spring woolens. The fashionable materials are fine camel's-hair cloth, tweeds and homespuns in invisible checks, composed of a mixture of gray and black, or two shades of gray, or a somewhat lighter combination of the same colors, or of brown with striped bars or broken lines of color running through them. These will be made up into costumes and worn over black silk skirts, or a plain gray fabric will be chosen for the body part of the whole dress and the body part used for trimming, or the body part of the dress may be made of the checked and the plain part used for sleeves or folds. Fine chalies made of silk and wool, always pretty, but tame and ineffective when made up into suits, are improved by the introduction of irregular knots of wool of a darker shade from the ground; thus, gray upon gray, brown upon ecru, and the like. This makes up well into sleeveless tunics, polonaises and costumes, the skirt and sleeves being composed of silk or poplin the shade of the knots.

Plainer and cheaper materials consist of twilled de bege, a very useful and serviceable fabric, much like what was formerly known as "nun's serge," only the twill is finer. Also, tweed mixtures of cotton and wool, so fine and well made as to be almost equal in appearance and wear to the all wool manufactures. Of trashy "Japanese" silks and poplins, there are at present none to be seen. The rage for softly draping fabrics has excluded all stiff and wiry productions during the past few years, and these with the rest.

SILK AND CASHMERE COSTUMES.

A new distinction is pressed upon the attention of the admirers of black silks this season, and that is with regard to the difference between machine and hand-spun silk. Machine made silks, it is asserted, are always more or less harsh and rough, no matter how rich or heavy, and will cost many hundreds of dollars. There will be several small engines to run the wells, drills, railroad trains and refinery. This ingenious contrivance is constructed in sections, and can be easily taken apart for transportation."

An Ingenious Device.

A capillary correspondence was recently attempted between a notorious Parisian thief in durance vile and his comrades outside. The prisoner was sent a letter from his fiance, containing merely a book of hair wrapped in the leaf of a book. The jailer did not consider the souvenir important enough to be delivered, but a few days after came a similar inclosure, and yet another. This aroused suspicion, and the governer took the matter in hand. He examined the leaf of the book, it was only that of a common novel, twenty-six lines on a page. Then he studied the hair, and found the odd quantity of the gift. Counting the hairs he found them of unequal length, and twenty-six in number, the same as the lines of the page. Struck with the coincidence he laid the hairs along the lines of the page which they respectively reached, beginning at the top with the smallest hair. After some trouble, he found that the end of each hair pointed to a different letter, and that these letters combined formed a slang sentence, which informed the prisoner that his friends were on the watch and that the next time he left the prison to be examined an attempt would be made to rescue him. The governor laid his plans accordingly, the attempt at rescue was made, but the rescuers fell into their own trap.

THE interesting question, When does the statute of limitations begin to run against coupons? has been recently determined by the Supreme Court of the United States. The court holds that coupons when severed from the bonds are negotible and pass by delivery; they then cease to be incidents of the bonds, and become in fact independent claims; they do not lose their validity if for any cause the bonds are canceled or paid before maturity; nor their negotiable character; nor their ability to support seperate actions. And the account for which they are issued draws interest from its maturity. They possess the essential attributes of commercial paper. The statute of limitations begins to run from the maturity of the coupons, without reference to the statute of limitations that governs the bond to which it was originally attached. This is a point of importance to bondholders.

FORTY-FOURTH CONGRESS,

TERM BEGINS MARCH 4, 1875.

Full List of Representatives and Delegates.

As the official term of the Forty-fourth Congress soon begins, and an extra session is among the possibilities, the following list of Representatives elect, complete to date, will be convenient for reference. All the elections to the Senate have been made, and the list published, and all seats except one for Louisiana disposed of. The Senate is already called to meet in extra session March 5th; and, unless, sooner convened, the regular session of both the Senate and House will begin on Monday, December 6th:

THE HOUSE.

[Republicans, in Roman, 102; Democrats, in *Italic*, 167; Independents, in SMALL CAPS, 6. There are 17 to elect by States, and 3 to fill vacancies caused by death. The asterisk (*) in dicates members of the present Congress, re-elected; the † stands for colored.]

ALABAMA—8.

1. Jerry Haralson, *c.*
2. *Jere. N. Williams.*
3. *Paul Bradford.*
4. *Charles Hays.*
5. **John H. Caldwell.*
6. *Goldsmith H. Hewitt.*
7. At ⅓ *Burwell B. Lewis.*
   L. ⅓ *William H. Forney.*

ARKANSAS—4.

1. *Lucien C. Gause.*
2. *Wm. F. Slemons.*
3. Wm. W. *Wilshire.*
4. **Thos. M. Gunter.*

CALIFORNIA—4.

Elects in September.

CONNECTICUT—4.

Elects in April.

DELAWARE—1.

James Williams.

FLORIDA—2.

1. *Wm. J. Purman.
2. *Josiah T. Walls, *c.*

GEORGIA—9.

1. *Julian Hartridge.*
2. *Carter H. Harrison.*
3. *Chas. R. Farwell.
4. *Stephen A. Hurlbut.
5. H. C. Burchard.
6. Thos. J. Henderson.
7. ALEX. CAMPBELL.
8. *Greenbury L. Fort.
9. Rich. H. Whiting.
10. JOHN C. BAGBY.
11. *Scott Wike.*
12. Wm. M. *Steringer.*
13. *Adlai E. Stevenson.*
14. *Joseph G. Cannon.
15. **John R. Eden.*
16. *William A. J. Sparks.*
17. **Wm. R. Morrison.*
18. *William Hartzell.*
19. WM. B. ANDERSON.

INDIANA—13.

1. *Benoni S. Fuller.*
2. *James D. Williams.*
3. *Michael C. Kerr.*
4. *Jephu D. New.*
5. *Wm. *Holman.*
6. Milton S. Robinson.
7. *Franklin Landers.*
8. *Morton C. Hunter.
9. Thos. A. Cason.
10. *Wm. S. Haymond.*
11. James L. Evans.
12. *A. H. Hamilton.*
13. John H. Baker.

IOWA—9.

1. *Geo. W. McCrary.
2. John Q. Tufts.
3. *Lucien L. Ainsworth.*
4. *Henry O. Pratt.
5. *Jas. Wilson.
6. Ezek'l